

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARAS 4 AND 5)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: ATLANTIC RELATIONS: DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR DE
STAERCKE

DEPT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

1. AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE CALLED ON ME ON MONDAY, MARCH
25 TO DISCUSS VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ATLANTIC RELATIONS. FIRST,
HE WANTED ME TO KNOW THAT HE AGREED WITH THE VIEWS OF THOSE,
INCLUDING SYG LUNS, WHO BELIEVED THAT A SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE
LINK BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EC, AS OUTLINED BY FORNMIN SCHEEL,
WOULD WEAKEN THE ALLIANCE. IN FACT, HE THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE
THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT COULD MARK THE BEGINNING OF A SERIOUS
DENIGRATION OF THE ALLIANCE. TO MY QUESTION AS TO WHY EIGHT
MEMBERS OF NATO WOULD SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL IF THERE WAS
A WIDESPREAD SENTIMENT THAT IT WOULD UNDERMINE THE ALLIANCE,
DE STAERCKE RESPONDED THAT THE NINE MIGHT FEEL THAT THEY
ARE UNDER ATTACK; AND THAT THE SCHEEL PROPOSAL WOULD BE
ATTRACTIVE TO WASHINGTON, AND THAT THEREFORE IT WOULD SOLVE
THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM. IN SHORT, ACCEPT THE SHORT-TERM SOLUTION
AND WORRY ABOUT THE LONGER-TERM PROBLEM LATER. DE
STAERCKE'S OPINION WAS THAT SUCH A SOLUTION COULD EVENTUALLY
CREATE A MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR THE NINE AND FOR NATO THAN
THE PRESENT PROBLEM OF CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE
NINE. DE STAERCKE SAID THAT ALL THE PROGRESS THAT EUROPE
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HAD MADE HAD BEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

2. BOTH SPEAKING ON A PERSONAL BASIS, DE STAERCKE AND I THEN
DISCUSSED THE GENERAL SITUATION IN EUROPE. I MADE THE POINT

THAT IN MY VIEW THE NINE WERE IN FACT MAKING LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS TOWARD EUROPEAN UNIFICATION; THAT WHEN THEY FAILED TO MAKE PROGRESS ON ONE OF THE TOUGH KNOTS ON THE ROAD TOWARD UNIFICATION IN THE ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL AREA, THEY HAVE TENDED EITHER TO MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF CONSULTATIONS ON SUBJECTS WHICH HAVE BEEN INHERENTLY PROPER FOR NATO CONSULTATIONS SUCH AS CSCE, OR ELSE MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF DEVELOPING A POSITION WHICH IS REMARKABLE ONLY FOR ITS DISTANCE FROM THE U.S. SUCH SUBSTITUTE ACTIVITY, I STRESSED, IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE TRANS-ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP. RATHER THAN ASKING THEMSELVES WHAT THEY COULD DO FOR EUROPEAN UNIFICATION REGARDLESS OF ITS IMPACT ON THE ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP, EUROPEANS SHOULD ASK THEMSELVES WHAT THEY CAN DO FOR EUROPEAN UNIFICATION THAT IS EITHER NOT HARMFUL TO OR PREFERABLY IS HELPFUL TO THE ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP. I RECOGNIZE THAT ACHIEVING UNITY IS NOT EASY, BUT THE FRUSTRATIONS OF FAILURE SHOULDN'T BE DIRECTED IN WAYS THAT ARE HARMFUL TO THE ALLIANCE. I ALSO COMMENTED THAT IN MY VIEW THE DILEMMA THAT EIGHT OF THE NINE SEEMED TO THINK THEY FACE WAS IN FACT A FALSE DELEMMA. IT WAS NOT THE CASE THAT AN ACT WHICH WAS CONSTRUCTIVE IN THE ATLANTIC CONTEXT AUTOMATICALLY DENIGRATED THE EUROPEAN UNIFICATION MOVEMENT NOR WAS IT TRU THAT A CONSTRUCTIVE ACT IN THE FIELD OF EUROPEAN UNIFICATION AUTOMATICALLY WAS IN OPPOSITION TO THE ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP.

3. DE STAERCKE SAID THAT SINCE THE ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP WAS SO MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE EFFORTS TOWARDS UNIFICATION OF THE NINE WHICH, IN FACT, WERE NOT MAKING MUCH PROGRESS RECENTLY, THAT ON REFLECTION HE WAS INCREASINGLY OF THE OPINION THAT POSSIBLY THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS OF THE NINE SHOULD BE LESS ACTIVE IN THEIR POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS. HE SAID POSSIBLY THE FIFTEEN SHOULD PROBABLY MOVE AHEAD IN THIS FIELD AND LEAVE THE NINE IN EFFECT ON THE FRINGE. I SAID THAT I FELT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO TALK ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NINE ON THE ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP THAT I HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTED FROM TIME TO TIME BECAUSE THE COUNCIL WAS NOT DISCUSSING THIS BASIC QUESTION. I MENTIONED THAT THE COUNCI MIGHT CONSIDER DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT IN A RESTRICTED SESSION OF AMBASSADORS
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PLUS ONE.

4. AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE ASKED ME WHAT I THOUGHT ABOUT THE FORCES AT WORK IN THE UNITED STATES. I SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE WERE NOT TRYING TO THREATEN THE NINE BUT THEY WERE TRYING TO STATE THE FACTS AS THEY EXIST FORCEFULLY SO THAT HOPEFULLY THE PROBLEM FINALLY GETS SOLVED. THE BEHAVIOR OF THE NINE DURING THE PAST YEAR HAD REVEALED SOME PROBLEMS WHICH UNDERLINE THE QUESTION OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE ALLIANCE, THAT SEC. STATE RAISED IN HIS APRIL SPEECH, GIVEN THE PERCEPTIONS IN THE U.S. OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN EUROEP. THE SAD THING, I COMMENTED, WAS THAT THERE HADN'T REALLY BEEN SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARDS EUROPEAN UNIFICATION IN THE

PAST YEAR AND THE PROSPECTS FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF EUROPEAN UNITY
CANNOT BE MEASURED IN A PERIOD OF SIX TO TWELVE MONTHS BUT R

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